

I'm writing to enthusiastically support HB 3376 that would provide grant money to local theatre entities such as Salem Cinema to aid in massive recovery costs in the aftermath of shutdowns due to pandemic. Salem Cinema in particular consistently provides reliable and affordable community access to selective and thoughtful art that isn't always easily discovered or accessible in other venues. This art is powerfully effective in providing Salem community members with the priceless opportunity to imagine, heal, be inspired, laugh, connect, and expand perspective, personal horizons and learning, growth and evolution. These are essential components of our holistic health as human beings, particularly in response to a collective trauma like the pandemic.